

Nakahara Farms
41600 Ryer Avenue
Clarksburg, CA 95612

March 6, 1998

To whom it may concern,

For more than 40 years our family has heard neighbor farmers on the west side of Ryer Island curse the flooding of Prospect Island. The family has farmed on the opposite (east) side of Ryer during those years but we had no reason to doubt our neighbors' claims of hardships and our observations seem to support them. The last dozen years, I have farmed land on the west side of Ryer adjacent to Prospect. Now I not only have observations but also experience with seepage and high water table problems when Prospect floods. In 1997, the last appreciable rain fell in January yet it was not until mid-May was I able to safely send tractors into the fields without sinking them in "wet holes". The slough water level was low and had Prospect not been flooded I would have planted in early April as I have done in the past.

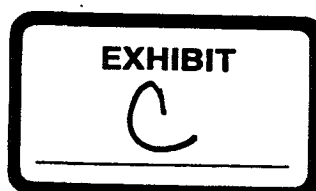
When Prospect floods, it usually occurs in the winter and the breach repaired and the water pumped out in late spring or early summer. Winter crops, such as wheat, are usually killed or yields drastically reduced because of water saturated soils. Spring plantings are delayed because equipment cannot enter fields until seepage desists and the water table lowers. The lateness of planting causes reduced yields and creates cultivation practices scheduling problems between the late planted fields and the more timely planted fields.

Farmers by nature are keen observers of farmland; their own in particular and others on a more casual basis. Over the many, many years each farming area has adapted practices which are best suited for that area. Through observations and experiences farming techniques have been formed which would not necessarily be suitable for another farming area. A person's observational skills are important in a successful farming operation. Please do not discount the generations of farmers who say that Ryer Island is more prone to seepage when Prospect Island floods.

Sincerely,



Craig Nakahara
Nakahara Farms



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